

Thursday, October 16 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Chairman Powell,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more palatable to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and finding room for yet another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content – I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Bill Rendell
26 2nd st
Taunton, MA 02780



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Sincerely,

Paul Jameson
11500 Brockman Lane
Great Falls, VA 22066



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Sincerely,

Corey Primrose
P.O Box 3527 Fairfax, Virginia
Fairfax, VA 22038



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Sincerely,

Paul Duncan
37477 Fountain Pk. Cir. Apt. #347
Westland, MI 48185



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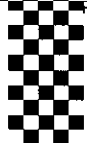
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Sincerely,

Sandra Gill
9130 Clayton Street
Denver, CO 80229



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Sincerely,

James Owiecki
109 Kensington Circle
Wheaton, IL 60187

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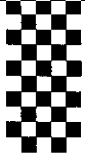
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Sincerely,

Karen Carlton
3406a Old Orchard Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17109



Peter Pownall
6-6 Liszt Gate
Toronto, Canada

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

The movie industry is without a doubt the most abusive industry I buy from. Please do not support them in their desire to increase their atrocious behaviour towards their own customers.

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place.

The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

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